

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 854 - SB 919

March 10, 2023

SUMMARY OF BILL AS AMENDED (005182): Authorizes the court to reduce the six-month waiting period after the filing of an adoption petition to three-months for children aged three years or less and children within six months of turning eighteen. Requires the court to provide a ruling on a petition of termination of custodial rights within 30 days of the conclusion of the hearing.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL AS AMENDED:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Based on information provided by DCS, it is reasonable to assume that the majority of potential adoptive children live in their foster home for more than six months prior to the adoption petition being filed. Therefore, decreasing the residence threshold to three months for certain children before an order of adoption is entered is assumed to have no significant impact on DCS.
- Tennessee Code Annotated § 36-1-113(k) currently requires the court to enter an order that makes specific findings of fact and conclusions of law within 30 days of the conclusion of a custodial hearing; therefore, requiring the court to provide a ruling on the petition of termination of custodial rights within this 30-day period can be accomplished without an increase in expenditures.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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